

Evening Telegraph

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1869.

THE BYRON SCANDAL.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S attack on the memory of Lord Byron continues to be a fruitful theme for newspaper comment. It is the great literary sensation of the day, and shows that indecency and shamelessness can be made as profitable to magazine and book publishers as to stage-managers.

The excuses which Mrs. Stowe gives for her shocking disclosures are so transparent, and her statements are so loose or absolutely false, that it would be an insult to her intelligence to suppose that she really had any higher object than that of the razor strop man—to make an article that would sell.

Mrs. Stowe does not even pretend that she was authorized or requested by Lady Byron to publish the shameful story to the world. She was only consulted in regard to the propriety of its publication, for the purpose of counteracting the effects of a cheap edition of Lord Byron's works; and according to her own showing she advised Lady Byron to "leave the truth to be disclosed after her death," recommending that "all the facts necessary should be put in the hands of some person to be so published."

Feeling that she must find an excuse for her article, she gives it in the allegation that it is necessary or desirable to refute the "slanders of the Countess Guiccioli's book;" that is to say, because the Countess calls Byron's wife a cold and correct woman, as all the world has called her for the last half century, she meanly considers this characterization as a compliment rather than an imputation.

The late publication is not only condemned by Mrs. Stowe's own theories, but with almost unbroken unanimity by the American press. She has not only done a bad thing, but she has executed her infamous task in a bungling manner, and managed to crowd into her statement so many inaccuracies and false deductions that she throws discredit upon her entire story.

The accusation rests exclusively on the allegation that Lady Byron believed her husband to have been guilty of incest. It is part of the same story that at or about the same time Lady Byron believed him to be mad. Events proved her to be mistaken in the latter charge, and if she was capable of an error on this point, why not on the other? It is unsafe to give full credence to any statement of either of the parties to a matrimonial separation or a divorce suit, especially when the "green-eyed monster" construes "trides light as air" into "confirmation strong as proofs of holy writ," and lords and ladies are as prone to error on such subjects as the plainest of plebeians.

That Mrs. Stowe has been at no pains to investigate the charge is evident from the obvious errors in her article. She has shown none of the impartiality of the judge, and she has not even displayed the care of a judicious district attorney, who seeks to know at least enough of the history of the criminals he arraigns to be satisfied that there is a substantial ground for a prosecution. Of the real facts of her married life she is deplorably ignorant, and while the force of her accusation is broken, if not totally destroyed, by the misstatements with which it is interwoven, it is rebutted by the strongest evidence for the defense that could well be presented against a charge of this nature, viz:—

1. According to the statements of all parties concerned, Lady Byron left Lord Byron's residence at his own request. Mrs. Stowe herself makes this point in a defense of her heroine. If Lady Byron was then fully satisfied that he was the monster he is now represented to be, and if that guilt was a full justification for her separation (as Mrs. Stowe now apparently contends), Lady Byron should have abandoned her husband voluntarily after the discovery of his crime.

2. The daughter of Lord and Lady Byron was in part named after the offending sister, Augusta. Would the wife have consented to this perpetuation of a fearful remembrance if

she was fully satisfied of the truthfulness of her charge?

3. Lady Byron, after leaving Lord Byron, addressed him long and affectionate letters. She acknowledges the existence of this correspondence, and explains that, in deference to the advice of the physicians whom she desired to pronounce him mad, she avoided "all but light and soothing topics." But is this a sufficient justification, in view of the new theory which, in her name, is now palmed upon the world, for her affectionate letter commencing "Dear duck?" Does she not show, by the weakness, folly, and inconsistency of her own conduct, that her statements are as unreliable as those of her American champion?

A RESTORATION OF SILVER CURRENCY.

MR. WILLIAM E. DU BOIS, Assistant Assayer of the United States Mint, has published an essay on the subjects of a revised system of weights and measures and a restoration of silver currency. Mr. Du Bois writes with a thorough knowledge of his subject, and his views are entitled to a candid consideration. An international system of weights and measures and an international coinage are becoming more important every day, and earnest efforts are being made to bring them about. Great reforms like these cannot be made in haste, however, and the very magnitude of the changes involved, and the interests that would be affected, require that any legislation with regard to them should be made with deliberation and caution. The great difficulty in fixing upon a uniform system of weights and measures is to persuade each nation to give up the system to which it is accustomed. No system can be devised that will not be open to some objections—probably very good objections; but the only way for an accommodation to be reached is for each party to be willing to yield something. The French metric system is the one that has thus far found most favor, and it has already been adopted by several nations and very generally by scientific men. Mr. Du Bois, like most American and English writers, objects to it strongly, and thinks that a modification of our own system would be better. Our standard is an arbitrary one, and although the French metre professes to have a scientific value, it is well known to be quite as arbitrary as our own. The advantages of the French system are many; it gives us a series of decimal subdivisions, the most important of which are near enough to those we have now in use not to cause any great difficulty; it is uniform for weights and measures of all kinds, and, what is specially important in recommending it, is that it has already come into general use, and that those who have adopted it would not be likely to throw it overboard to try something else. The objections to it are the inconvenience its introduction would cause at first and its clumsy nomenclature. The first of these evils would of course have to be submitted to, and the last is one that is not irremediable. We are confident that if any change is made in the present English and American systems, it will be in the adoption of the French; and the mere fact that it is French will not be as serious an objection with the people who are called upon to use it as it appears to be with most of the British and American writers on the subject.

The greater portion of Mr. Du Bois' pamphlet, however, is devoted to the discussion of the restoration of silver currency, and his arguments in favor of the plan which he proposes, if not conclusive, are suggestive and worthy of investigation. He says:—"What is the proper use and function of silver in the currency? It held the chief place. It was used not only for making change, but for heavy payments, foreign as well as domestic. In France, the very word for money was (and is) argent, and the word over, British excepted, silver was far more employed in currency than gold.

"But as the nations have increased in wealth, and as the gold mines have been developed, there is a growing tendency to make gold the principal currency, and to use silver only as subsidiary, and chiefly for home transactions, and at the same time to reduce to its utmost limit the relation between the two by law. These two facts afford a basis for the proposition which follows.

"Crowing to causes which need not be recited, our present currency is entirely in paper bills of credit, down to the note of ten cents. But the value of that paper is ascertained by its market relation to gold and silver, and the precious metals are thus being obliged to be in fact, as they are declared to be by law, the fixed and real money. Under favorable auspices, gold and legalized paper will draw closer together, until they shall entirely coincide in a resumption of specie payments; although the greater convenience of paper money, and the restricted quantity of gold will always give a vastly larger currency to the former.

"But whatever may be the present necessity, or the ever-present advantage, of using paper money in large sums, or even down to one dollar, there is no longer any reason why we should be debared from the benefit of silver money for small change. While the public debt, however poor, or loaded with all other nations, enjoys this benefit, the United States of America, with such wealth and territory, and such mines of gold and silver, and such a little bit of gold-silver, paper, solid, ruffled, and torn, for of gossamer-paper, solid, ruffled, and torn, for twenty-five and ten cents. Such money is not for the rough usage of marketing, shopping, and hourly business. Silver, of standard fineness, is an important element in making it respectable; but this is not the chief recommendation. It has all the desirable natural properties: it is solid, beautiful, durable, sonorous, neither hard nor soft, easy to work, and hard to counterfeit. The near prospect of the return of silver coin would cause public rejoicing. The people would not inquire if the pieces were of full intrinsic value. They would have the good sense to know that, while silver is at a premium against paper, the coin would be reduced in weight to keep it in circulation. They would wish it to be really standard, that is, nine tenths fine. But if the law makes the piece a lighter ten-cent, and at the same time limits the issue, everybody would be satisfied. And these are the two main principles of the present plan."

The trouble is that the people would inquire if the silver coins were of full value. They might be glad to have the token currency in preference to paper, but they would never be looked upon as anything but makeshifts, and when the paper money was entirely superseded the difference in value between the gold and silver coins would be as great a nuisance as the

difference between gold and paper money is now.

So long as the tokens are limited to the very smallest coins, such as three and five cent pieces, the evil is not appreciable, and it is counterbalanced by their utility and convenience; but when it comes to the issue of large pieces we will find ourselves not very far from where we are now. The experiment which Mr. Du Bois advocates with considerable ability, is not novel; it has been tried many times by nations in pretty much the same predicament as we are, and never yet with success. The value of gold and silver is strictly commercial, and it cannot be regulated by law, and if we except the very smallest coins, such as the cent, three-cent, and perhaps five-cent pieces, it is a matter of the first importance, that no special legislation can overcome, that the coin of a country should have a standard and interchangeable value, otherwise the debased currency becomes an annoyance and constant source of difficulty in all mercantile transactions. Mr. Du Bois states that his plan is not a scheme for debasing the standard of value, but only to restore silver upon such a basis, under legal sanctions, as will enable it to keep its subsidiary place, whether the chief currency be paper or gold. To accomplish this he proposes to decrease the value of silver coins about thirty per cent., and then to regulate their issue from time to time by legislation, so that the public will be supplied with just so much currency as it needs and no more. Under these circumstances, it will be impossible when gold comes into use again to exchange four silver quarters for a gold dollar, just as it is impossible now to do the same thing with paper money; and this difficulty will extend itself through all the transactions of mercantile and commercial life. The legal value of these depreciated coins will be purely fictitious, and, except in the pleasure that most people feel in handling what they believe to be silver, we do not see why the proposed coinage might not as well be nickel or bronze, with no appreciable value at all. There is one substantial argument in favor of a depreciation of the silver currency, and that is to reduce its value so much that it will be no object to send it out of the country or to hoard it. It is essential that the small silver should be kept in circulation, and a reasonable depreciation of value to accomplish this would be open to no material objection. But we believe that, if the plan proposed by Mr. Du Bois were tried, while it might afford some temporary advantages in the present state of affairs, it would, ere many years, be abandoned in compliance with universal complaint.

In adopting any scheme like this, which proposes to remedy the difficulties of a dirty and ragged paper currency, it is necessary to consider not merely our present wants but also those of the future. It is a very important matter that there should be as little tampering as possible with the coinage of the country, and any question of depreciating its value ought particularly to be carefully considered from all points of view before it is adopted.

Mr. Du Bois appears to have given the subject thoughtful attention, but he also seems to have become strongly biased in favor of a pet theory, so that he can scarcely look at it except from one point of view, and we cannot conceive that such a plan as he suggests will ever meet with favor except perhaps as an expedient to obviate a greater evil. He states that he has reason to believe, however, that his views are acceptable to the officers of the Mint, and we may therefore, we suppose, esteem his pamphlet as an official pronouncement from that institution. To illustrate the proposed plan, the Director of the Mint has authorized the striking of specimen pieces, of various devices, which will be ready shortly for the inspection of those who are curious on this subject.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.—A Washington despatch to one of our morning contemporaries claims to solve the mysteries of American diplomacy at Madrid. But it is anything save satisfactory. The propositions said to have been submitted to the Spanish Government, in the first instance by Mr. Paul S. Forbes, and subsequently by General Sickles, were practically rejected by the substitution of counter propositions, the character of which the correspondent has been unable to learn. They proved unsatisfactory to the Cuban representatives in this country, and another effort is to be made to bring the Spanish Government to the acceptance of the basis for the settlement of the Cuban question as originally proposed. The four points of the basis are thus set forth, "exactly correct," according to the claim of the correspondent:—

First, Spain to grant independence to Cuba without condition.

Second, For Spanish property left in Cuba, which will give indemnity. A mixed commission, consisting of equal number of Spaniards and Cubans, and an umpire of their selection, shall determine the amount of the indemnity, but under no circumstances shall the aggregate amount exceed \$100,000,000.

Third, The slaves in Cuba must be emancipated.

Fourth, As soon as these propositions are accepted, hostilities between Spain and Cuba shall cease, and the United States will guarantee the fulfillment of the contract by both parties.

A WOMAN defends female preaching in the *Nation* on a very novel ground. She accounts for the preponderance of women in the membership of the Protestant churches by the fact that the preaching is monopolized by men, whose influence with the opposite sex is greater than with their own. Hence, she argues that if women were given a fair show in the pulpit, they would succeed in attracting their male admirers into the fold. This is basing the claim of woman to a hearing in the pulpit on the true and only substantial basis. If our churches are turned into show-houses, with yellow hair and other female excrescences as the attractions, the women who have hitherto predominated in the audience will be crowded out into the vestibules, and perchance into the streets, to make room for the crowds of gaping men who will rush to see English burlesque disguised as religion.

A TIMELY WARNING.—The *World* quotes approvingly some extracts from the *Evening Post* upon the present status and prospects of the Republican party in the State of New York. The *Post* alleges that the Republicans have sustained defeat for two years past in New York on account of "the nomination of vicious, weak, and unworthy men to the Legislature from districts strongly Republican," a course which has tended to "degrade and weaken the party." If defeat overtakes the Republican party in this city in October next, it will be mainly in consequence of just such blunders, Stokes, Davis, Bunn, Adaire, Clond, and Hong are just the sort of "vicious, weak, and unworthy men" through whose agency the Republicans of New York have been worsted.

THEODORE TILTON has been turned topsyturvy by the woman's rights agitation. In a recent speech he declared that before he died he wanted to give one arm to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the other to Susan B. Anthony, and in this mutilated condition accompany them to the polls. As Theodore has but two arms, the small fry among the female agitators must content themselves with less desirable pieces chipped from his mortal coil. George Francis Train may secure a leg and Miss Anna E. Dickinson an ear.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL. CAPITAL, £2,000,000. Agents, SABINE & ALLEN, Agents, FIFTH and WALNUT STREETS.

OFFICE RECEIVER OF TAXES. TO TAXPAYERS.—Notice is hereby given that after the 1st of September a penalty of One per Cent. will be added to all city taxes then unpaid. On and after the 20th instant this office will be open from 9 to 3 o'clock. JOHN M. MELLODY, Receiver of Taxes.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE. City Warrants registering to \$5,000 will be paid on presentation, interest ceasing from this date. JOSEPH N. PEIRSOL, City Treasurer.

THE VINELAND FAIR, SEPTEMBER 17 and 18, affords the best opportunity of the year for a visit to the most remarkable and successful settlement of the century.

FOR THE SUMMER.—TO PREVENT sunburn and all discolorations and irritations of the skin, bites of mosquitoes or other insects, use Wright's Allocated Glycerine Tablet. It is deliciously fragrant, transparent, and has no equal as a toilet soap. For sale by druggists generally. R. & G. A. WRIGHT, No. 254 CHESTNUT STREET.

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETINGS.—THE UNION REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE have made arrangements for MASS MEETINGS as follows, viz:— Troy, Bradford county, Sept. 4, 1869. Towanda, Sept. 6, 1869. Honedale, Wayne county, Sept. 7, 1869. Kittanning, Armstrong county, Sept. 7, 1869. Beaver, Beaver county, Sept. 7, 1869. Bradford, Bradford county, Sept. 7, 1869. Somerset, Somerset county, Sept. 14, 1869. The meetings at Troy, Towanda, and Honedale will be addressed by Governor J. W. Geary, Hon. John Scott, and Hon. W. D. Kelley. Governor O. P. Morton of Indiana, Hon. John A. Bingham of Ohio, and Hon. Wayne McVeigh of Pennsylvania, will address the meeting at Pittsburg. JOHN GOVODE, Chairman.

G. W. HANESLEY, M. G. QUAY, W. J. W. WHITE, S. F. WINNIE, Secretaries. 839 1/2

UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE, Collector's Office, First District, Pennsylvania. PHILADELPHIA, August 26, 1869.

NOTICE.—INTERNAL REVENUE. The undersigned will sell at Public Sale, on THURSDAY, Sept. 2, 1869, at 11 o'clock A. M., at 114 W. 11th Street, the following distillery, apparatus, and appurtenances, viz:— Steam Engine and Boilers, Mash Tubs, Copper Pumps, Office Furniture, etc. The said articles are seized and detained upon non payment of taxes, etc., due United States Internal Revenue. Office of the Deputy Collector and Distaining Officer. JAMES N. KERRIN, Deputy Collector and Distaining Officer.

J. E. GOULD, No. 923 CHESTNUT Street, is selling Stock & Co's and Haines Bros' Pianos and Mason & Hamlin's Cabinet Organs nearly as low as at any former time. 835

YANKEE GREEN CORN CUTTERS, for table and kitchen use, give you the healthy pulp without the indigestible hull. Various styles and prices, from 25 cents up, for sale at all the house-furnishing stores. 827

DR. F. R. THOMAS, THE LATE OPERATOR of the Golden Dental Association, is now the only one in Philadelphia who devotes his entire time and practice to extracting teeth, absolutely without pain, by fresh nitrous oxide gas. Office at WALNUT ST. 1387.

JOSE POEY, Medico-Chirurgo de la Universidad de la Habana, recibe consultas de 9 a 11 de la mañana y de 3 1/2 a 6 de la tarde en su oficina calle Nueva (ant. No. 75). Residencia en la calle de Green, No. 1217.

DR. JOSEPH POEY, Graduate of the University of Habana (Cuba), has removed his office to No. 753 S. Ninth street. Residence, No. 1817 Green street. Office hours—9 to 11 A. M. 3 1/2 to 6 P. M. 7262

ELLIS' IRON BITTERS.—"HAVING used your Iron Bitters in my practice, I can testify to its superior tonic properties for invigorating the appetite and promoting digestion. I can unhesitatingly commend it in cases of general debility and dyspepsia, and in all cases of indigestion. It is a most valuable and efficacious tonic. Its agreeable flavor must recommend it to all. Years, respectively, CHAS. S. GAYNE, M. D., Professor in the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery." PREPARED BY JOHNSTON, HOLLOWAY & GOWDEN, No. 92 ARCH Street, and by Druggists generally.

REGULAR REPUBLICAN NOMINEE For Representative, Fourth District. JOSEPH BRADY, 831 1/2

CLOTHING.

HURRAH! BOYS!! SCHOOL!!!

Time to go to school again; Holidays done! Come, boys, can't complain! Had a jolly run. Come, boys; slates and books; Study now, like your fathers; Merry faces; pleasant looks; Glad school's begun! Good clothes to wear to school; Wanted to wear: (Now the days are getting cool!) Won't split nor tear. All the boys that we know, Ask their father, all, Please to hurry up and go TO GREAT BROWN HALL.

Harry up, parents; don't be slow! Johnny and Jack, and Jim and Joe, as every respectable father knows, need good, strong school clothes. Clothes that are strong, clothes that are stout, that will last you long, before wearing out.

Come, bring the youngsters, one and all, and we'll rig them out CHEAP.

AT THE GREAT BROWN HALL OF ROCKHILL & WILSON, NOS. 603 AND 605 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

HATS AND CAPS. WARBURTON'S IMPROVED VENTILATED and easy-fitting Dress Hats (patented), in all the improved fashions of the season. CHESTNUT Street, next door to the 2nd City. 12 1/2 1/2

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J. F. & E. B. ORNE, No. 904 CHESTNUT STREET.

FALL IMPORTATIONS. FRENCH MOQUETTE CARPETS, DESIGNED BY THE BEST ARTISTS IN PARIS, FOR SALE ONLY BY US, AND AT LESS PRICES THAN EVER BEFORE OFFERED.

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ALSO, ENGLISH BRUSSELS FOR HALL AND STAIRS, ALL WIDTHS, WITH BORDERS TO MATCH.

1000 PIECES NEW TAPESTRIES. JUST OPENED, 1000 PIECES OF ALL THE NEW STYLES OF TAPESTRIES FOR THE SEASON, AT MODERATE PRICES.

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PHILADELPHIA. FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE. CHAMPION SAFES. LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD CO.'S BONDS, OF THE ISSUE OF 1853, BEARING 6 PER CENT. INTEREST, AND SUBJECT TO TAXES, Are Exchangeable for New Bonds, BEARING 6 PER CENT. INTEREST, AND FREE FROM TAXES, A LIMITED AMOUNT OF Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Railroad Co.'s SEVEN PER CENT. BONDS IS OFFERED AT Ninety-One and One-Half Per Cent. CHARLES C. LONGSTRETH, Treasurer Lehigh Valley Railroad Co., 91 2nd St. No. 303 WALNUT STREET.

DREXEL & CO. NO. 34 SOUTH THIRD STREET, American and Foreign BANKERS, ISSUE DRAFTS AND CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available on presentation in any part of Europe. Travelers can make all their financial arrangements through us, and we will collect their interest and dividends without charge. DREXEL, WINTROP & CO., DREXEL, HARRIS & CO., New York. Paris. 13 10 4

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WANTED. BETWEEN THIRTEENTH and Nineteenth, and Market and Pine, a small three-story brick house, with attic and back buildings, in perfect order, not to cost more than from \$8000 to \$10,000. Address, with particulars, Box 1992, Phila. P. O. 94

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